

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 78

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the matters to be considered in developing the state water plan.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 16.051(a-1) and (d), Water Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a-1) The state water plan must include:

(1) an assessment of the best available science related to trends in factors affecting:

(A) future water availability, including precipitation, evaporation, storage capacity, and environmental flow needs; and

(B) future water use, including technologies for water conservation, purification, and reuse;

(2) an evaluation of the state's progress in meeting future water needs, including an evaluation of the extent to which water management strategies and projects implemented after the adoption of the preceding state water plan have affected that progress; and

(3) ~~(2)~~ an analysis of the number of projects included in the preceding state water plan that received financial assistance from the board.

(d) The board, in coordination with the commission, the Department of Agriculture, and the Parks and Wildlife Department,

1 shall adopt by rule guidance principles for the state water plan
2 which reflect the public interest of the entire state. When
3 adopting guidance principles, due consideration shall be given to
4 the best available science related to forecasting future water
5 availability, the environmental flow standards and environmental
6 flow set-asides adopted by the commission under Section [11.1471](#),
7 the construction and improvement of surface water and groundwater
8 resources, and the application of principles that result in
9 voluntary redistribution of water resources. The board shall
10 review and update the guidance principles, with input from the
11 commission, the Department of Agriculture, and the Parks and
12 Wildlife Department, as necessary but at least every five years to
13 coincide with the five-year cycle for adoption of a new water plan
14 as described in Subsection (a).

15 SECTION 2. This Act applies to the state water plan required
16 to be adopted by the Texas Water Development Board beginning with
17 the 2017 state water plan.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.